

in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 3.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the United States Air Force Operating Location Near Groom Lake, Nevada

January 29, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with section 6001(a) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (the "Act"), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6961(a), notification is hereby given that on September 25, 1998, I issued Presidential Determination No. 98-36 (copy attached) and thereby exercised the authority to grant certain exemptions under section 6001(a) of the Act.

Presidential Determination No. 98-36 exempted the United States Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake, Nevada, from any Federal, State, interstate, or local hazardous or solid waste laws that might require the disclosure of classified information concerning that operating location to unauthorized persons. Information concerning activities at the operating location near Groom Lake has been properly determined to be classified, and its disclosure would be harmful to national security. Continued protection of this information is, therefore, in the paramount interest of the United States.

The determination was not intended to imply that in the absence of a Presidential exemption, RCRA or any other provision of law permits or requires the disclosure of classified information to unauthorized persons. The determination also was not intended to limit the applicability or enforcement of any requirement of law applicable to the Air Force's operating location near Groom Lake except those provisions, if any, that would

require the disclosure of classified information.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

January 23

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and high winds on January 21 and continuing.

January 24

In the morning, the President traveled to Little Rock, AR, to inspect tornado damage in the surrounding areas. In the afternoon, he traveled to Beebe, AR, where he inspected tornado damage there.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

January 25

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms, ice, and freezing rain on December 22-26, 1998.

January 26

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to St. Louis, MO. In the evening, they returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Rudy de Leon as a member of the National Partnership Council.

January 27

In the afternoon, the President met with President-elect Hugo Chavez of Venezuela

in National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger's office.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton hosted a dinner for the Nation's military leaders in the State Dining Room.

The White House announced that the President invited President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana for a state visit on February 24.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Manchester, NH on February 18.

The President announced his intention to appoint John C. Pierce and Joyce Van Schaack as members of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Joseph (Jody) Trapasso as a member of the Community Adjustment and Investment Program Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint Edward F. Hartfield and Mary E. Jacksteit as members of the Federal Service Impasses Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint W. Peter Conroy to serve as the Alternate Federal Commissioner to the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin Compact Commission and to the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River Basin Compact Commission.

The President declared an emergency in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by near-record snow on January 2 and continuing.

January 28

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Oakton, VA, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert W. Gee to be Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy at the Department of Energy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Steven W. Percy as a member of the President's Council on Sustainable Development.

The White House announced that the President invited Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy, President of the Council

of Ministers, for an official working visit on March 5.

January 29

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of India concerning India-U.S. relations and nonproliferation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Evelyne R. Villines as a member of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Boston, MA, and New York City on February 2.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted January 26

Marsha L. Berzon,
of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice John T. Noonan, Jr., retired.

Legrome D. Davis,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Edmund V. Ludwig, retired.

Barbara Durham,
of Washington, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Betty Binns Fletcher, retired.

Timothy B. Dyk,
of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, vice Glenn L. Archer, Jr., retired.

Keith P. Ellison,
of Texas, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, vice Norman W. Black, retired.